DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 410 092 RC 021 126

AUTHOR	Hadden, Gerry, Comp.
TITLE	Teenage Refugees from Mexico Speak Out. In Their Own Voices.
REPORT NO	ISBN-0-8239-2441-6
PUB DATE	97
NOTE	64p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Rosen Publishing Group, Inc., 29 East 21st St., New York, NY 10010 ($15.95).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Opinion Papers (120) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Adjustment (to Environment); Adolescent Literature; American Indians; Aspiration; Family Life; *High School Students; High Schools; *Immigrants; *Late Adolescents; Mexican American History; *Mexican Americans; Mexicans; *Out of School Youth; Personal Narratives; Student Attitudes; *Student Experience; Undocumented Immigrants; Youth Problems
IDENTIFIERS	Hispanic American Students

ABSTRACT

In this book written for young people, six young Mexican immigrants tell about their immigration experiences and adaptation to life in the United States. These immigrant youths are 16-20 years old and include both legal and illegal immigrants, high school students and dropouts, and permanent immigrants and those planning to return to Mexico. An introduction gives a brief overview of Mexican history, the history of Mexican immigration to the United States, and the Mexican economic and social conditions that have driven emigrants to seek opportunity in a new country. The narratives discuss the experience of crossing the border illegally; the youths' personal, family, and financial problems; the desire to finish school frustrated by the need to work; aspirations to attend college; student interests and hobbies; comparisons between Mexican and U.S. schools; problems learning English; pride in being bilingual; reminiscences of life on an American Indian reservation in Mexico; gang membership and problems with the law; dating; racism; and family life. This book includes photographs, a glossary, a reading list, and an index. (SV)

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